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Message Text

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11/61
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 PM-07 CPR-02 SAM-01 SY-04

A-01 M-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 OPR-02 USSS-00 INR-11

DRC-01 RSC-01 /105 W
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R 291707Z AUG 74
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO CINCPAC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7395
CNO
SECDEF

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR REFERENCES

CINCPAC FOR COLONEL THATCHER AND POLAD

CNO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (SOAMES, SIR CHRISTOPHER); EEC
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 6292 (NOTAL), B) EC BRUSSELS 6481

1. HEREWITH IS THE BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON SOAMES PARTY AS PROMISED REFTEL B.

A. SIR CHRISTOPHER JOHN SOAMES. SOAMES WAS BORN IN OCTOBER 1920, EDUCATED AT ETON AND THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, SANDHURST. COMMISSIONED IN THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS IN 1939, HE SERVED WITH HIS REGIMENT IN THE WESTERN DESERT DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. IN 1950 HE WAS ELECTED CONSERVATIVE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BEDFORD, A SEAT WHICH HE HELD UNTIL 1966. DURING THIS
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PERIOD HE WAS PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE

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PRIME MINISTER, SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL (HIS FATHER-
IN-LAW). SUBSEQUENTLY, HE SERVED AS PARLIAMENTARY
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE TO THE AIR MINISTRY
(1955-1957), TO THE ADMIRALTY (1957-1958), AND
AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (1958-1960) AND AS
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (1960-1964).
IN 1968 THEN PRIME MINISTER HAROLD WILSON APPOINTED SIR CHRIS-
TOPHER AS AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE WHERE HE PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE
IN NEGOTIATING WITH FRANCE (AND PERSONALLY WITH ITS PRESIDENT)
BRITISH ENTRY INTO THE COMMON MARKET. AFTER BRITAIN'S
ENTRY SOAMES WAS NAMED A VICE PRESIDENT OF THE
COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND GIVEN THE
IMPORTANT EXTERNAL RELATIONS PORTFOLIO.
SIR CHRISTOPHER IS HIGHLY REGARDED IN EUROPEAN CABINETS
AND HIS SELECTION AS COMMISSIONER UNDERSCORED THE
IMPORTANCE BRITAIN ATTACHED AT THAT TIME TO STRENGTHENING
COMMUNITY RELATIONS.
HE IS FRIENDLY TO THE U.S., HAS VISITED THE U.S. A
NUMBER OF TIMES, BOTH OFFICIALLY AND PRIVATELY, AND HAS
ACCESS TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.
(IN FEBRUARY 1973, HE MET WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AND
HE HAS HAD A NUMBER OF MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE).
SIR CHRISTOPHER IS MARRIED TO THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER
OF THE LATE SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, ALTHOUGH SHE DOES
NOT PLAN TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON THE TRIP. PERSONALLY,
SIR CHRISTOPHER IS LARGE, GOOD-HUMORED, VIGOROUS,
ARTICULATE AND WITTY. (FYI: HE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED
AS AND REFERRED TO AS "SIR CHRISTOPHER").

B. DAVID H.A. HANNAY HOLDS THE POSITION OF CHEF DE
CABINET TO SIR CHRISTOPHER. (THIS POSITION FALLS
SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THAT OF A SEPCIAL ASSISTANT AND
THAT OF A DEPUTY IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT NOMENCLATURE).
HANNAY IS A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH FOREIGN SERVICE IN
HIS EARLY FORTIES. HE HAS HAD EXTENSIVE EUROPEAN
EXPERIENCE AND WAS STATIONED IN BRUSSELS WITH THE
BRITISH MISSION TO THE COMMON MARKET PRIOR TO BRITISH
ENTRY. WHEN SIR CHRISTOPHER WAS APPOINTED FROM HIS
POST IN PARIS HE IS SAID TO HAVE, WITH DIFFICULTY,
PERSUADED THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO SECOND HANNAY TO THE
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COMMISSION TO WORK ON HIS STAFF.
PERSONALLY, HANNAY IS EXTREMELY BRIGHT AND QUICK.
HE IS QUITE OPEN, FRANK AND SOMETIMES INTENSE IN
DISCUSSIONS.

C. ADRIAN FORTESQUE IS SIR CHRISTOPHER'S DEPUTY
CHEF DE CABINET. HE IS IN HIS LATE TWENTIES OR
EARLY THIRTIES.

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D. MISS JANE MORTON IS SIR CHRISTOPHER'S PERSONAL
SECRETARY, BRIGHT, VIVACIOUS AND COMPETENT.

2. THIS MISSION HAS HAD EXTENSIVE DEALINGS WITH SIR
CHRISTOPHER AND MESSRS. HANNAY AND FORTESQUE. ON ALL
OF THESE OCCASIONS THEY HAVE BEEN STRAIGHTFORWARD, FORTH-
RIGHT AND ABSOLUTELY TRUSTWORTHY. THEY ARE ALL FRIENDLY
TO THE UNITED STATES AND CONSCIOUS OF ITS IMPORTANT ROLE
IN GLOBAL POLITICS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE HOPE
THAT THEY MAY BE BRIEFED IN A CANDID AND FORTHRIGHT
MANNER (REF B). THE MISSION BELIEVES THEY WILL RESPECT
ANY STIPULATIONS ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY. GREENWALD

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